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From: Henney, Jane
Sent: Monday, May 10, 1999 9:37 AM
To: EXECSEC
Subject: FW: Antibiotics in Feed

From: jlmcd@tntech.campuscwix.net[SMTP:JLMCD@TNTECH.CAMPUSCWIX.NET]
Sent: Monday, May 10, 1999 9:38:21 AM
To: JHenney@test.oc.fda.gov
Subject: Antibiotics in Feed
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I had a cow/calf operation for a few years and I deliberately chose feed that had no antibiotics in it, although my choices of feed were limited. I have been reading more and more about "superbugs" that drug companies are trying to come up with antibiotics to fight and I am convinced that resistance to the drugs we now have is why we have strains of "superbugs." Of course, I am not alone in this, I think the medical profession holds that same opinion. I also think that it is fairly widely believed that if we did not indiscriminately use antibiotics we would not have this situation. I also know that part of the problem are medical doctors themselves and their indiscriminate prescribing of drugs (they use the excuse that if they didn't do it their patients would find doctors who do - where have personal ethics gone?). But why use it in the animals we eat on such a regular basis and as a preventative? It is bad enough that animals get into the slaughter houses too soon after they have been really sick and have been pumped with medicines to help them make it there, but to know that all animals have been routinely fed makes me want to become a vegetarian. The real point is that it is really unnecessary and a decision which might endanger our health (resistance to bacteria) has been made for purely economic reasons-big business needs to not be able to drive the decisions which should be made for the health and safety of the public; but of course this happens all the time. I know it would be a little more expensive for growers to make more sanitary conditions for animals but it is possible and should be done. I urge you to ban the routine use of medically useful antibiotics in animal feed. Ethical practices have to start somewhere. Thank you. Linda McDearman
Linda McDearman

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